

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/GOB CIVIL AVIATION TALKS MARCH 20

1. ECONCOUNSELOR AND EMBOFF REVIEWED UPCOMING US/GOB CIVAIR TALKS MARCH 14 WITH MFA COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR DE CASTIAUX.
2. DE CASTIAUX, WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST ROUND OF US/GOB CIVAIR TALKS IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOB PREPARATIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS, TOLD US THAT BELGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD INFORMED MFA THAT US SIDE MIGHT WISH TO EXPAND TALKS TO INCLUDE FOLLOW-ON RIGHTS FOR PANAM FROM BRUSSELS TO WARSAW AND MOSCOW. (ACCORDING TO DE CASTIAUX, GOB REJECTED THIS PANAM REQUEST IN 1972.) DE CASTIAUX ALSO SAID US SOURCES HAD TOLD BELGIAN EMBASSY THAT US SIDE MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS AVIATION SECURITY QUESTIONS. BELGIAN EMBASSY DID NOT AMPLIFY THIS POINT FURTHER, AND DE CASTIAUX HAS NO IDEA WHAT SPECIFIC SUBJECTS US WANTS TO COVER.

3. DE CASTIAUX ASKED IF US HAD SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS IN MIND FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE ASSUMED DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS ON BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS

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AND CARGO CHARTERS, ITEMS 1(B) AND 5, RESPECTIVELY, OF OCTOBER 1977 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. WE SAID WE WOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS POINT.

4. ON QUESTION OF INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR NEXT WEEK'S TALKS, WE AGREED WITH DE CASTIAUX THAT FRENCH INTERPRETING SERVICES WOULD BE HELPFUL, ESPECIALLY IN HIGHLY

TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS OR DRAFTING EXERCISES, ALTHOUGH ALL WOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW GENERAL DISCUSSIONS IN ENGLISH.

5. DE CASTIAUX WILL PROVIDE NAMES OF GOB DELEGATION BY EARLY WEDNESDAY. GOB DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE SECRETARY GENERAL GRANDRY AS HEAD, MARCEL GOOSSENS AND JACQUES NAVEAU OF SABENA, DE CASTIAUX FROM MFA AND VANDERPERREN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, AS WELL AS SOME OTHERS. ALL OF FOREGOING--WITH EXCEPTION OF VANDERPERREN--PARTICIPATED IN OCTOBER TALKS.

6. IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH MARCEL GOOSSENS, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SABENA, WE TOUCHED ON THE FORTHCOMING CIVAIR BILATERALS. GOOSSENS MADE HIS USUAL PITCH ABOUT OBTAINING BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS FROM ATLANTA ON TO MEXICO WHILE WE REITERATED US INTEREST IN COMPETITIVE FARES AND CHARTER ARRANGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY FOR FREIGHT.

7. GOOSSENS DECLARED THAT THE BELGIANS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING FOR OBTAINING THE BLIND SECTOR FOLLOW-ON RIGHTS TO MEXICO. EMPLOYING HIS STANDARD LINE OF ARGUMENT, HE NOTED THERE WOULD BE NO DAMAGE TO US CARRIERS AND THAT BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BELGIAN REQUEST FOR ATLANTA LANDING RIGHTS. WE SUGGESTED THAT IF THIS WERE THE CASE THE BELGIANS OUGHT TO HAVE PERSISTED IN PRESSING THEIR CASE IN WASHINGTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST OCTOBER. WE ADDED THAT BELGIANS SHOULD NOT ASSUME BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS WOULD BE PROFFERED TO THEM AUTOMATICALLY AND THAT THEY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON A QUID PRO QUO, ENCOMPASSING AT A MINIMUM INCREASED CARGO CHARTER OPERATIONS.

8. GOOSSENS SAID THE BELGIANS WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THEIR EUROPEAN FRIENDS FOR HAVING GIVEN TOO MUCH TO THE US LAST FALL. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOB TO BE OUT FRONT ONCE AGAIN. HE SUGGESTED THAT ONCE THE NEW SABENA FREIGHT TERMINAL WAS CONSTRUCTED, WITHIN THE NEXT ONE TO TWO YEARS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE A LIBERAL ARRANGEMENT ASSUMING THE EXISTING RIGHTS OF PANAM AND SABENA WERE PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED. IT WAS NOTED THAT THERE COULD BE A CURRENT AGREEMENT OR COMMITMENT MADE RESPECTING THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE ENLARGED BELGIAN CAPACITY ON FREIGHT OPERATIONS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH MFA HAS RECEIVED LIST OF US DELEGATION FROM ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, IT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM US OF US DELEGATION. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON AGENDA QUESTIONS RAISED IN

PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 ABOVE WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP IN GETTING
TALKS STARTED SMOOTHLY. CHAMBERS

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